

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

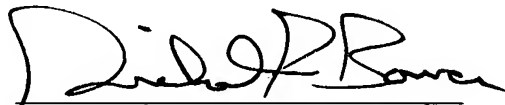
Claims 1, 3-24, and 26-46 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 24 being independent.

Certain claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification (e.g., see pages 10-11 of the specification), and not in response to any statutory requirement.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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